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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

The Ugly Racial Nature of Gun Control

Richmond, Va. -- Note: In his concurring statement in *McDonald v. Chicago* -- the Supreme Court case affirming that the Second Amendment ensures an individual right to own firearms -- Justice Clarence Thomas discussed the history of gun-control laws, whose purpose was to stifle the rights of minorities and to prevent African-Americans from defending themselves against the likes of the Ku Klux Klan. Excerpts from Thomas' opinion appear below....

After the Civil War, Southern anxiety about an uprising among the newly freed slaves peaked. As Representative Thaddeus Stevens is reported to have said, "[W]hen it was first proposed to free the slaves, and arm the blacks, did not half the nation tremble? The prim conservatives, the snobs, and the male waiting-maids in Congress, were in hysterics."

This fear led to "systematic efforts" in the "old Confederacy" to disarm the more than 180,000 freedmen who had served in the Union Army, as well as other free blacks. Some States formally prohibited blacks from possessing firearms. Others enacted legislation prohibiting blacks from carrying firearms without a license, a restriction not imposed on whites. Additionally, "[T]hroughout the South, armed parties, often consisting of ex-Confederate soldiers serving in the state militias, forcibly took firearms from newly freed slaves."

As the Court makes crystal clear, if the Fourteenth Amendment "had outlawed only those laws that discriminate on the basis of race or previous condition of servitude, African-Americans in the South would likely have remained vulnerable to attack by

many of their worst abusers: the state militia and state peace officers...."

In the years following the Civil War, a law banning firearm possession outright "would have been nondiscriminatory only in the formal sense," for it would have "left firearms in the hands of the militia and local peace officers."

Cruikshank's holding [*U.S. v. Cruikshank* 92 U.S. 542 (1876)] that blacks could look only to state governments for protection of their right to keep and bear arms enabled private forces, often with the assistance of local governments, to subjugate the newly freed slaves and their descendants through a wave of private violence designed to drive blacks from the voting booth and force them into peonage, an effective return to slavery. Without federal enforcement of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms, these militias and mobs were tragically successful in waging a campaign of terror against the very people the Fourteenth Amendment had just made citizens.

Take, for example, the Hamburg [South Carolina] Massacre of 1876. There, a white citizen militia sought out and murdered a troop of black militiamen for no other reason than that they had dared to conduct a celebratory Fourth of July parade through their mostly black town. The white militia commander, "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman, later described this massacre with pride: "[T]he leading white men of Edgefield" had decided "to seize the first opportunity that the negroes might offer them to provoke a riot and teach the negroes a lesson by having the whites demonstrate their superiority by killing as many of them as was justifiable."

Organized terrorism like that perpetuated by Tillman and his cohorts proliferated in the absence of federal enforcement of constitutional rights. Militias such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Knights of the White Camellia, the White Brotherhood, the Pale Faces, and the '76 Association spread terror among blacks and white Republicans by breaking up Republican meetings, threatening political leaders, and whipping black militiamen. These groups raped, murdered, lynched, and robbed as a means of intimidating, and instilling pervasive fear in, those whom they despised.

Although Congress enacted legislation to suppress these activities, Klan tactics remained a constant presence in the lives of Southern blacks for decades. Between 1882 and 1968, there were at least 3,446 reported lynchings of blacks in the South. They were tortured and killed for a wide array of alleged crimes, without even the slightest hint of due process. Emmet Till, for example, was killed in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman. The fates of other targets of mob violence were equally depraved.

The use of firearms for self-defense was often the only way black citizens could protect themselves from mob violence. As Eli Cooper, one target of such violence, is said to have explained, "[T]he Negro has been run over for fifty years, but it must stop now, and pistols and shotguns are the only weapons to stop a mob."

Sometimes, as in Cooper's case, self defense did not succeed. He was dragged from his home by a mob and killed as his wife looked on. But at other times, the use of firearms allowed targets of mob violence to survive. One man recalled the night during his

childhood when his father stood armed at a jail until morning to ward off lynchers. The experience left him with a sense, "not of powerlessness," but of the "possibilities of salvation" that came from standing up to intimidation.

In my view, the record makes plain that the Framers of the Privileges or Immunities Clause [of the 14th Amendment] and the ratifying-era public understood --just as the Framers of the Second Amendment did -- that the right to keep and bear arms was essential to the preservation of liberty. The record makes equally plain that they deemed this right necessary to include in the minimum baseline of federal rights that the Privileges or Immunities Clause established in the wake of the War over slavery. -- Richmond Times-Dispatch, July 18, 2010

"Anti-Islamic" bus ads appear in major cities

San Francisco - The debate over Islam's place in America, escalating in light of plans to build a mosque near ground zero, is playing out across the country.

Ads by Stop Islamization of America, which aims to provide refuge for former Muslims, read: "Fatwa on your head? Is your family or community threatening you? Leaving Islam? Got questions? Get answers!"

The ads, on buses in the San Francisco Bay Area, Miami, and New York, are a response to ones from a New York Muslim group that say, "The way of life of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. Islam. Got questions? Get answers."

The ads are part of a larger conversation over Islam's image, which Muslim organizations say has been hurt by extremists both at home and abroad. Many conservative groups point to imams in this country inciting militancy and a growing number of American Muslims arrested for plotting terror attacks.

A self-described "anti-jihadist," Pamela Geller, executive director of Stop Islamization of America conceived the "Leaving Islam" campaign. Her ads, she says, were partly inspired by the Florida case involving a teenage girl who ran away from her Muslim parents after converting to Christianity. The girl, Rifqa Bary, claimed her father threatened to kill her for becoming a Christian.

Ms. Geller described her campaign as mainly "to help ex-Muslims

who are in trouble" and also "to raise awareness of the threat that apostates live under even in the West."

A 2009 Pew Research Center poll found that 38 percent believe Islam is more likely to encourage violence than other religions.

"In this post-9/11 world ... it's almost like there's some political and spiritual currency to be gained by being anti-Islamic," says Steve Spreitzer, programs director for the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

RefugeFromIslam.com, the website promoted on Geller's ads, contends that Muslim Americans who "long to be free" of their religion are in danger of being killed, and offers protection, including "safe houses," for those who want out. Muslim rights groups and religious leaders say there is no penalty for leaving Islam and that the Koran condemns killing as a sin.

In Detroit, which has one of the highest Muslim populations in the country, Geller sued the transit agency after it rejected the ads.

In the Bay Area, more than 125 religious leaders of various faiths denounced the ads as "Islamophobic." Geller says calling the ads anti-Islam is "a tactic to divert attention" away from the "plight" of ex-Muslims.

Geller points out that Detroit had no problem with a campaign sponsored by atheists last year. Those ads, also on buses, read: "Don't believe in God? You're not alone." Although the ads offended some, they were deemed free speech.

The ads sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community recently began appearing on 100 New York City buses and promote the website MuslimsForPeace.org, which condemns terrorism and advocates for a separation of church and state.

-- Christian Science Monitor, 28 July 2010

Christian, we have been watching your family

"In the name of Allah, and of his final prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him):

"The true religion of Islam WILL ARISE in your area; you cannot stop Allah's will.

"We have been watching your family; we have seen you go to church and seen you pray to your false god. We know that you are infidels, and we will deal with you as our holy Quran declares:

"In Sura 9, verse 5, it says TO

SLAY the idolaters wherever you find them; take them captive and besiege them.

"It also says in Sura 9, verse 29 to FIGHT those who have been given the scripture and believe not in Allah or the Last Day or follow not the religion of truth.

"If you and your entire family do not leave your false religion and follow Islam you will be killed. Your sons will be slaughtered and your daughters will become Muslim wives, bearing sons who will fight for Allah in this region.

"Your ONLY other option is to FLEE TONIGHT. Leave your home and everything behind.

"ALLAHU AKBAR!"

Letters like this are being sent to Christians living in a Muslim nation. (For security reasons we are choosing not to reveal which nation.) The death threat letters to Christians are often accompanied by real bullets. The message is clear: convert to Islam or die.

-- Voice of the Martyrs, August 2010

Feds invade farm for 5 a.m. inspection

(NaturalNews) The U.S. government gestapo is at it again in its crusade against raw milk. Recently, the jackboots swarmed a Pennsylvania Amish man's private dairy farm for the second time, falsely accusing him of violating the Public Health Services Act, and the ridiculous prohibition on selling raw milk across state lines.

Dan Allgyer's farm in Kinzers, PA, was raided by the same agents who paid him a visit in February, telling him both times that they were there for an "inspection". Just like last time, the agents drove flagrantly past "No Trespassing" and "Private Property" signs, this time arriving around 4:30 a.m. when Allgyer's family was still asleep and as he was preparing to milk his cows.

The group served him a warrant claiming they had "credible evidence" that he was involved in interstate commerce involving raw milk. According to Allgyer's personal account, upon being questioned as to why the agents were at the farm so early when the warrant clearly stated that it was valid only at "reasonable times during ordinary business hours", one of them retorted that "ordinary business hours for agriculture start at 5 a.m."

"Two were from the FDA, agent Joshua C. Schafer who had been there in February and another. I remember

In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. -- Mark Twain

being told that two were deputy U.S. marshals and one a state trooper. They started asking me questions right away," Allgyer said.

The next morning Allgyer received an overnight, urgent letter from officials about "regulatory action" that would be taken if he failed to take "corrective action"

According to the precedent set by *Wickard v. Filburn* (317 US 111 (1942)), practically everything can now be considered to affect "interstate commerce" and thus fall under federal jurisdiction. In the *Filburn* case, President Franklin Roosevelt coerced the Supreme Court into supporting New Deal proposals that revolutionized the definition of "interstate commerce".

Wickard v. Filburn had to do with a farmer who was growing too much wheat during a time when there were wheat quotas. To make a long story short, the courts established that even growing your own wheat and feeding it to your cattle falls under the banner of "interstate commerce" because there is the potential to affect interstate commerce.

It is under this faulty premise that federal agents are challenging Farmer Allgyer and others who may be selling raw milk products directly to consumers. Federal agents are operating on illegitimate precedent by accusing him of being involved in interstate commerce.

Advocates say raw milk is healthier.

According to natural-foods blogger Kimberly Hartke, Kevin Trudeau touts raw milk in his New York *Times* best-seller "Natural Cures They Don't Want You to Know About," and Sally Fallon Morell's cookbook, "Nourishing Traditions," which has sold 350,000 copies.

-- WorldNetDaily, April 22, 2010 and www.naturalnews.com July 30, 2010

Obama sneaks in LOST Treaty through the back door

By Cassandra Anderson

Thirty states will be encroached upon by President Obama's Executive Order establishing the National Ocean Council for control over America's oceans, coastlines and the Great Lakes. Under this new council, states' coastal jurisdictions will be subject to the United Nations' Law Of Sea Treaty (LOST), a UN Agenda 21 program. America's oceans and coastlines will be broken into 9 regions that include the North East, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, the Gulf Coast, West

Coast, the Great Lakes, Alaska, the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean.

Because of the decades of difficulty that the collectivists have had trying to ratify the LOST Treaty, Obama is sneaking it in through the back door, by way of Executive Order. Because LOST is a treaty, the Executive Order is not Constitutional, as treaty ratification requires 2/3 approval from the Senate. The Agenda 21 Convention on Biodiversity treaty of 1992 also failed to pass Congress so it was executed through soft law administratively on local levels. Obama's Executive Order is a similar soft law tactic.

In fact, our Constitutional form of government is being completely destroyed because buried in the CLEAR Act (HR 3534) is a provision for a council to oversee the outer continental shelf- it appears that this Regional Outer Shelf Council will be under the National Ocean Council. Should Congress enact the CLEAR law, then the implementation of the UN Law Of Sea Treaty, as part of the National Ocean Council's agenda, will be "ratified" in a convoluted and stealth manner, in full opposition to the Constitution and its intent.

The excuse for this extreme action is the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. There is evidence that the problems in the Gulf have been a result of collusion and planned incompetence, so why should America's oceans and resources be controlled by Obama appointees?

The 24 National Ocean Council members include:

* John Holdren, Obama's science and technology advisor, co-chairman of NOC. He is a depopulation enthusiast who advocates sterilization by way of using infertility drugs in water and food, and forced abortions, as described in this book *Ecoscience*.

* Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, and his Mineral Management Service, have botched their authority over offshore drilling and enforcing spill prevention. Last week, Congressman Louie Gohmert said that Salazar personally prevented drilling on land in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado, thereby preventing energy independence.

* Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary; his department has been complicit in the decline of our country's food independence. For example, US Fish & Wildlife (along with the Department of Commerce) shut the water off in California using the Endangered Species Act (ESA); it was later proven that partially treated sewage was the primary culprit in killing the salmon and delta smelt that was blamed on farmers.

The Forestry Service has misused the ESA to limit farmers and ranchers. Remember that the USDA co-owns the Terminator Gene patent with Monsanto that makes seeds sterile.

* Lisa Jackson, EPA administrator, has threatened to impose 18,000 pages of new regulations to curb global warming which is based on lies, claiming that carbon dioxide is a danger to human health.

* Department of Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano: it is unclear how these federal appointees will enhance environmental 'sustainability' over oceans and coasts.

* Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, a leading globalist; an example is her support of the UN Small Arms Treaty, which is contrary to the Constitution.

* Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke are logical choices for this destructive council as some of the planned funding will come from permits and leases (oil drilling leases, for example). These agencies will limit America's energy independence.

-- www.morphcity.com, July 28, 2010

America's Ruling Class

America's best and brightest believe themselves qualified and duty bound to direct the lives not only of Americans but of foreigners as well. George W. Bush's 2005 inaugural statement that America cannot be free until the whole world is free and hence that America must push and prod mankind to freedom was but an extrapolation of the sentiments of America's Progressive class, first articulated by such as Princeton's Woodrow Wilson and Columbia's Nicholas Murray Butler. But while the early Progressives expected the rest of the world to follow peacefully, today's ruling class makes decisions about war and peace at least as much forcibly to tinker with the innards of foreign bodies politic as to protect America. Indeed, they conflate the two purposes in the face of the American people's insistence to draw a bright line between war against our enemies and peace with non-enemies in whose affairs we do not interfere. That is why, from Wilson to Kissinger, the ruling class has complained that the American people oscillate between bellicosity and "isolationism."

Because our ruling class deems unsophisticated the American people's perennial preference for

decisive military action or none, its default solution to international threats has been to commit blood and treasure to long-term, twilight efforts to reform the world's Vietnams, Somalias, Iraqs, and Afghanistans, believing that changing hearts and minds is the prerequisite of peace and that it knows how to change them. The apparently endless series of wars in which our ruling class has embroiled America, wars that have achieved nothing worthwhile at great cost in lives and treasure, has contributed to defining it, and to discrediting it -- but not in its own eyes.

Rather, even as our ruling class has lectured, cajoled, and sometimes intruded violently to reform foreign countries in its own image, it has apologized to them for America not having matched that image -- their private image. Woodrow Wilson began this double game in 1919, when he assured Europe's peoples that America had mandated him to demand their agreement to Article X of the peace treaty (the League of Nations) and then swore to the American people that Article X was the Europeans' non-negotiable demand. The fact that the U.S. government had seized control of transatlantic cable communications helped hide (for a while) that the League scheme was merely the American Progressives' private dream. In our time, this double game is quotidian on the evening news. Notably, President Obama apologized to Europe because "the United States has fallen short of meeting its responsibilities" to reduce carbon emissions by taxation. But the American people never assumed such responsibility, and oppose doing so. Hence President Obama was not apologizing for anything that he or anyone he respected had done, but rather blaming his fellow Americans for not doing what he thinks they should do while glossing over the fact that the Europeans had done the taxing but not the reducing. Wilson redux.

Similarly, Obama "apologized" to Europeans because some Americans -- not him and his friends -- had shown "arrogance and been dismissive" toward them, and to the world because President Truman had used the atom bomb to end World War II. So President Clinton apologized to Africans because some Americans held African slaves until 1865 and others were mean to Negroes thereafter -- not himself and his friends, of course. So assistant secretary of state Michael Posner apologized to Chinese diplomats for Arizona's law that directs police to check immigration status. Republicans engage in that sort of thing as well: former

Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachev tells us that in 1987 then vice president George H. W. Bush distanced himself from his own administration by telling him, "Reagan is a conservative, an extreme conservative. All the dummies and blockheads are with him..." This is all about a class of Americans distinguishing itself from its inferiors. It recalls the Pharisee in the Temple: "Lord, I thank thee that I am not like other men..."

In sum, our ruling class does not like the rest of America. Most of all does it dislike that so many Americans think America is substantially different from the rest of the world and like it that way. For our ruling class, however, America is a work in progress, just like the rest of the world, and they are the engineers.

-- From Andrew M. Codavilla's "America's Ruling Class -- and the Perils of Revolution", *The American Spectator* July-August 2010. Codavilla is emeritus professor of international relations at Boston University

Green lies and ham

"The new Dr. Seuss"

I do not like this Uncle Sam,
I do not like his health care scam.
I do not like these dirty crooks, or how they lie and cook the books.
I do not like when Congress steals,
I do not like their secret deals.
I do not like this speaker, Nan,
I do not like this 'YES WE CAN.'
I do not like this spending spree,
I'm smart, I know that nothing's free.
I do not like their smug replies,
when I complain about their lies.
I do not like this kind of hope.
I do not like it, nope, nope, nope!

Utah concealed-gun applications hit record levels

Never shot a gun? Never been to Utah? You could still qualify for a concealed-gun permit.

The Beehive State is experiencing record demand for permits from across the U.S., particularly with the rise of the "tea party" movement, which advocates individual rights. The move has also been spurred by fears that President Obama will seek to enact national gun control.

Utah makes it easy to get a concealed-weapons permit, which is valid in 32 other states and lasts five years.

Applicants must clear a background check, be 21, take a course and pay a \$65.25 fee. Last year, 74,000 people applied for the permit.

"The only people making money off it are the instructors," said Lt. Doug Anderson, manager of the concealed-firearms program.

Not all states are happy with Utah's plan. New Mexico and Nevada have revoked recognition of Utah's licenses in recent months because that state does not require applicants to train with a handgun or even fire one.

-- Reuters, July 6, 2010

ICE ignoring data on alleged illegals?

An anonymous letter, distributed to law enforcement agencies and media outlets in Utah, contains a list of the names and addresses of over 1,300 supposedly undocumented immigrants, and calls for their immediate deportation.

The list was sent out, without a return address, this past Monday to government officials, police chiefs and media outlets.

The document details the names, addresses, dates of birth and telephone numbers of the allegedly undocumented immigrants. In some cases, Social Security numbers were disclosed as well. Almost all of the surnames were of Hispanic origin.

The letter was sent out by "Concerned Citizens of the United States," a hitherto unknown organization.

According to the letter, "Our group observes these individuals in our neighborhoods, driving our streets, working in our stores, attending our schools and entering our public welfare buildings. We gather information along with legal Mexican nationals who infiltrate their social networks and help us obtain the necessary information we need to add them to our list."

At least some of the data has so far proven itself to be inaccurate. On Tuesday, The Salt Lake City *Tribune* dialed several of the numbers and found some of the lines to be disconnected. Other calls were answered by people who were not on the list.

This same letter was sent to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) last April. An ICE spokesperson confirmed that the document had been received "a few months back," but did not say whether or not any action had been taken regarding the matter.

-- Notimex *La Jornada* (Mexico) 15 July 2010, translated by Ryan Croken

Putting an end to anchor babies

By Aaron Cantor

The 14th Amendment was put in place after the Civil War in 1868 in order to protect the freed slaves. It was never meant to be used to allow lawbreakers - illegal aliens - to cheat their way through the back door to attain USA citizenship. ["All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." - Sec. 1, 14th Amendment]

The bums in Washington need to wake up and pull their collective heads out of their anal sphincters.

A woman jumps the border illegally just so her kid will be born in the USA so as an automatic citizen she gets to stay to raise the kid which is dead wrong and should not be allowed, the kid is just as illegal as she is.

Fast forward twenty years, the kid is now an American citizen and can sponsor his/her relatives into the country, and they take over by sheer weight of numbers without ever firing a shot, and your elected representatives are letting it happen instead of doing something about it.

A former federal prosecutor, and now an immigration attorney by the name of Michael Wildes, told Fox News that a push for a change in the 14th Amendment is pure "Pie in the Sky", and has no chance of ever passing a court challenge.

Is it just me or are lawyers a large part of our problem in this country? (Hello ACLU)!

A measure was introduced in April of last year by former Congressman Nathan Deal. His proposed legislation would have stripped birthright citizenship from the 14th Amendment because he says the law only applies if one of the child's parents is a U.S. citizen or a LEGAL immigrant.

The Arizona law which was partially defanged by a district judge is not legal either, as the only court authorized to hear the case against a Sovereign State, is the Supreme Court of the United States, not a lower court.

We the people are in the fight of our lives, it is us against the politicians who don't give a damn about you or me.

Come join us at www.patriotscoalition.com

WAKE UP AMERICA!!!

-- www.nationalwriterssyndicate.com,
July 30, 2010

The Redneck Vasectomy

A Tennessee couple, Randy and Rebecca, both bona fide rednecks, had 9 children.

They went to the doctor to get Randy "fixed". The doctor asked them what finally made them make the decision. Why, after 9 children, would they choose to do this?

Randy replied that they had heard that one out of every ten children born in the U.S. was Mexican and they didn't want to take a chance on having a Mexican baby because neither of them could speak Spanish.

Regarding Cordoba House, the proposed Ground Zero mosque

If Feisal Abdul Rauf [imam of Masjid al-Farah mosque in New York City] is really sincere about improving Muslim relationships and tolerance with other religious denominations let him start by building interfaith community centers in Cairo, Tehran, Beirut, Baghdad, Riyadh, Kabul, etc. Then he can learn from these successes and build an even better one in New York.

That is assuming, of course, that the permits in these cities would be approved judiciously.

Andre George, Paradise Valley, Arizona

What has been left unsaid about the location of the Cordoba House ("An Open Letter on the Ground Zero Mosque," op-ed, Aug. 3) is the choice of the name for this Islamic Center. After the Muslim conquest of Spain, the city of Cordoba became the capital of the independent Muslim Emirate of Al-Andalus, which later became the Caliphate of Cordoba. During the caliphate, the Iberian peninsula and North Africa were ruled from Cordoba, which was its cultural, political, financial and economic center. Under the caliphate non-Muslims were given the second-class status of dhimmis with restrictions on many civil rights, including building temples and churches.

I find it ironic that Imam Feidal Abdul Rauf wants to build a mosque named Cordoba House in a city which is the cultural, political and financial center of the U.S.

Farangmeher Ghadiali, Dallas

-- Letters, *Wall St. Journal* Aug. 6, 2010

Should videotaping the police really be a crime?

Anthony Graber, a Maryland Air National Guard staff sergeant, faces up to 16 years in prison. His crime? He

videotaped his March encounter with a state trooper who pulled him over for speeding. Then Graber put the video - which could put the officer in a bad light - up on YouTube.

Graber is not the only person being slapped down by the long arm of the law for the simple act of videotaping the police in a public place. Prosecutors across the U.S. claim the videotaping violates wiretap laws - a stretch, to put it mildly.

In Graber's case, the trooper apparently had reason to want to keep his actions off the Internet. He cut Graber off in an unmarked vehicle, approached Graber in plain clothes and yelled while brandishing a gun before identifying himself as a trooper.

No wonder, then, that civil rights groups have embraced amateur videos. Last year, the NAACP announced an initiative in which it encouraged ordinary citizens to tape police misconduct with their cell phones and send the videos to the group's website, www.naacp.org.

Law enforcement is fighting back. In the case of Graber - a young husband and father who had never been arrested - the police searched his residence and seized computers. Graber spent 26 hours in jail even before facing the wiretapping charges that could conceivably put him away for 16 years. (It is hard to believe he will actually get anything like that, however: the Maryland attorney general's office gave its opinion that a court would likely find that the wiretap law does not apply to traffic stops.)

The legal argument prosecutors rely on in police video cases is thin. They say the audio aspect of the videos violates wiretap laws because, in some states, both parties to a conversation must consent to having a private conversation recorded. The hole in their argument is the word "private." A police officer arresting or questioning someone on a highway or street is not having a private conversation. He is engaging in a public act.

Even if these cases do not hold up in court, the police can do a lot of damage just by threatening to arrest and prosecute people.

Most people just stop filming. These are the cases no one finds out about, in which there is no arrest or prosecution, but the public's freedoms have nevertheless been eroded.

[People] are right to insist on the right to videotape police actions that occur in public. If the police are doing their jobs properly, they should have nothing to worry about.

-- Adam Cohen, *TIME* 6 August 2010

Will Washington's failures lead to 2d American Revolution?

The Internet is a large-scale version of the "Committees of Correspondence" that led to the first American Revolution — and with Washington's failings now so obvious, it may lead to another.

People are asking, "Is the government doing us more harm than good?"

Pruning the power of government begins with the imperial presidency.

Too many overreaching laws give the president too much discretion to make too many open-ended rules controlling too many aspects of our lives.

Bill Clinton lowered the culture, moral tone and strength of the nation — and left America vulnerable to attack. When it came, George W. Bush stood up for America, albeit sometimes clumsily.

Barack Obama, however, has pulled off the ultimate switcheroo: He's diminishing America from within.

He may soon bankrupt us and replace our merit-based capitalist economy with a government-directed one of his own design

He is undermining our constitutional traditions: The rule of law and our Anglo-Saxon concepts of private property hang in the balance.

The Wall Street Journal wrote that Barack Obama is "an alien in the White House."

His bullying and offenses against the economy and job creation are so outrageous that the Business Roundtable finally mustered the courage to call him "anti-business." Democrat Sen. Max Baucus blurted out that Obama is engineering the biggest government-forced "redistribution of income" in history.

Record-setting deficits in the \$1.4 trillion range are now endemic.

Obama is building an imperium of public debt and crushing taxes, contrary to George Washington's wise farewell admonition: "cherish public credit ... use it as sparingly as possible

... avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt ... bear in mind, that towards the payment of debts there must be Revenue, that to have Revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised, which are not ... inconvenient and unpleasant"

Polls suggest that voters will replace the Democratic majority in Congress with Republicans — but that will not necessarily stop Obama. — *Investor's Business Daily*, July 30, 2010

Let's drug test the Democratic leadership!

By John Cory

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs ranted that "the professional left" needed to be drug tested for their complaints and attacks on the Obama administration after all the good things Obama has done.

I agree.

We "professional leftists" do indeed need drug testing because apparently the colorful liquid inducing hallucinogenic of "hope and change" has worn off and the ugly mediocrity of modern Democratic leadership stares us in the face with the not-so-friendly smugness of a hookah-smoking caterpillar.

Maybe some good old-fashioned Window Pane or Micro Dot, or better yet, some organic 'Shrooms could do the trick. After all, we are all mushrooms now as the old joke goes, kept in the dark and fed a pile of bullshit.

And really, what is there to complain about? BP and the Gulf Oil disaster? Come on, there are no plumes, the oil has evaporated, and if you clap loud enough you won't notice where the poisonous garbage is being dumped. It's all good, bro. Trust us.

And the fact that Gitmo continues unabated or that confessions obtained from a teenage boy under threat of rape is just part of the process of adhering to humane and ethical Constitutional principles is simply the price we must pay for freedom. As a former president said, "It's hard work."

The Dems have worked hard to save Wall Street, which is the real

economy and thus the real America. Listen you over-aged hippies this just ain't your Grandpa's America no more! Cowboy up!

I agree, drug testing for everyone.

Let's start testing the Democratic leadership for an overload of estrogen and ever decreasing levels of testosterone. That might just explain your symptoms of impotence, foggy thinking, memory loss and mood swings.

In the meantime, I'll find some Purple Haze and stare at a Steadman portrait of Hunter S. Thompson and chant, "I wouldn't recommend sex, drugs or insanity for everyone, but they've always worked for me."

I mean, how much worse could it get? Right?

On second thought, do you think they can grow magic Gulf mushroom shrimp that disperse the reality of war and greed?

I HOPE I have enough to buy some. Anybody got spare CHANGE?

-- Reader Supported News Perspective, August 11, 2010

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Decency, security and liberty alike demand that government officials shall be subjected to the same rules of conduct that are commands to the citizens. In a government of laws, existence of a government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. Our government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. To declare that in the administration of the criminal law the end justifies the means — to declare that the Government may commit crimes in order to secure the conviction of a private criminal—would bring terrible retribution. Against that pernicious doctrine this Court should resolutely set its face. — *Olmstead v. U.S.*, 277 US 348, 485 (1928), Justice Louis D. Brandeis, dissenting

NJM, P.O. Box 10176, Trenton New Jersey 08650

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www.njmilitia.org

info@njmilitia.org

walnor@keepandbeararms.com

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